

# Inside

# OUT

The Newsletter of the CDC/HRSA Corrections Demonstration Projects

Produced six times a year through the collaboration of  
Correctional Technical Assistance and Training Project of SEATEC and the National Minority AIDS Council

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April 2001



## United States Conference on AIDS 2001

The 5<sup>th</sup> annual United States Conference on AIDS (USCA), sponsored by the National Minority AIDS Council, will take place September 13-16, 2001 in Miami Beach, FL. In the past, NMAC and its program partners have hosted over 3,000 service providers, people living with HIV/AIDS, policymakers, public officials, funders and other leaders for skills building workshops and activities at USCA. It is the largest AIDS-related gathering in the United States, with over 3,300 attendees being anticipated for the 2001 meeting.

Please visit NMAC's website at [www.nmac.org](http://www.nmac.org) for information on registration, scholarships, schedule of events and hotels for USCA.

### Critical Dates:

- Scholarship Application Deadline: June 1, 2001
- Early Bird Registration Deadline: June 15, 2001
- Hotel Registration Deadline: August 13, 2001
- Conference Pre-Registration Deadline: August 21, 2001
- Cancellation/Refund Deadline: August 24, 2001

September 13 – 16, 2001

Miami Beach, Florida

Fountainebleau Hilton Resort and Towers

Administration (HRSA) Special Projects of National Significance (SPNS) Program and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention. The publication's comments are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of HRSA or CDC."

## Contact Information

**Correctional Technical Assistance and Training (NMAC)**

**Project (CTAT)**  
Southeast AIDS Training  
20009  
and Education Center  
Emory University

<http://www.nmac.org>  
735 Gatewood Road, NE  
Atlanta, GA 30322  
(404) 727-2927

**National Minority AIDS Council**

1931 13<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Washington, D

202-483-6622

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# State Report: Illinois

## Challenges for the Future

The challenge of providing a seamless system of care for HIV + individuals released from corrections into the community is one which each of the seven state grantees in the CDC/HRSA Corrections Demonstration Project is facing. Armed with CDC and HRSA funding, innovative ideas, a committed team, and a outstanding array of community based organizations, Illinois Project Director Kendall Moore and his team from the Chicago Department of Public Health are making important strides toward providing continuity of care to Illinois inmates.

While each component of the Illinois project---the Illinois Department of Corrections, the Cook County Jail, and the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center---has its own distinct character, “it is the collaboration that is unique” says Kendall. “Working together and trying to create the overall system is the ultimate challenge. We didn’t have a comprehensive system before, but now with the funding from CDC and HRSA, we are trying to establish this in our state.”

For many inmates in the U.S. correctional system, their first access to primary healthcare comes when they are incarcerated for the first time. Opportunities to see a dentist, to be tested for TB, HIV, STDs, and other chronic diseases, and treatment for substance abuse and mental illness, are often not available to many inmates before incarceration. Another problem is the lack of primary care systems for released inmates. According to Kendall, the Illinois project is not only striving to build up an internal system of care, but also to expand the external one after release.



One of the best examples of how the system is working more effectively as a result of the Project’s intervention is the provision of services in the Cook County Jail, a key Illinois project site. As one of the largest jails in the U.S., Cook County Jail has an inmate population of approximately 10,000 men and women per day. Upon intake, inmates go through screening for TB and STDs, and are offered voluntary HIV testing, and mental health and substance abuse counseling services are made available. Both the Chicago Department of Public Health and a variety of CBOs (Project and Non-Project associated) actively participate with the HIV+ inmates to provide help with such diverse needs as housing, pre-natal care, and transportation.

The AIDS Foundation of Chicago provides case management for the greater Chicago area and its surrounding counties, a process that helps facilitate the reintegration process. For example, an inmate being released downstate can call the AFC to get a case manager and talk about a plethora of issues--housing, job readiness, mental health, substance abuse, medical care, and ancillary services. “The goal,” according to Kendall, “is to ensure that all former HIV+ inmates will have access to quality healthcare in their communities. The end result is better health for the former inmates, reduced risk to the community, and lower rates of recidivism.”

Kendall Moore's vision for the future revolves around developing and implementing a Division of Public Health and Corrections that would serve the entire state of Illinois. This idea is gaining popularity and would be the ultimate way to foster an excellent continuum of care.

- Linda Levinson  
SEATEC

# NEWS

## HIV and Corrections now on the Web!

You can now obtain back issues of *Inside OUT*, including information on technical assistance and education regarding HIV and Corrections, on NMAC's website. Also available on the website is the latest issue of *Treatment Alert*, available in both English and Spanish, devoted entirely to the AIDS epidemic in prisons. *First Steps*, a guide for working with inmates, can also be found on the website site in a printable/downloadable format. Please visit: [www.nmac.org/treatment/prison\\_initiative.htm](http://www.nmac.org/treatment/prison_initiative.htm)

## Educational Resource List for HIV and Corrections

We have added new contacts for educational materials on the March/April 2001 issue of the **Educational Resource List for HIV and Corrections**. To receive your free 11- page copy of this list, please contact Teresa Brown, c/o National Minority AIDS Council at (202) 483-6622 x314, via email at [tbrown@nmac.org](mailto:tbrown@nmac.org), or visit us on the internet at [www.nmac.org](http://www.nmac.org).

## *First Steps* Booklet

This 16-page booklet is designed for organizations or individuals who are interested in providing HIV education/prevention services in correctional facilities. The booklet gives an introduction to security issues and correctional rules. You may obtain copies of this publication by contacting Teresa Brown, c/o National Minority AIDS Council at 202-483-6622 x314, via email at [tbrown@nmac.org](mailto:tbrown@nmac.org), or at NMAC's website at [www.nmac.org](http://www.nmac.org).

## Ellen Bentz Moves On...

It was like a falling star, the way she dropped into our Corrections Demonstration Project--- this blond dynamo from the National Minority AIDS Council. A bundle of energy, brains, and good looks, Ellen Bentz took her responsibility as NMAC's Program Manager for HIV and Corrections to heart from her first day on the job. Ellen seemed born to the task of networking and capacity building for the Project's Community Based Organizations. She masterminded countless projects in her brief and highly productive eleven months with us, among them the Inside/Out newsletter, the NMAC monthly National Resource List, and the forthcoming Corrections Demonstration Project CBO Conference. A talented motivator, Ellen could get us up at 6:00 a.m. to run for an hour, then keep us working all day on some new and innovative program. Ellen's passion for HIV and Corrections is perhaps only matched by her passion for running. She has progressed from running 10Ks to marathons, to 32-mile trail runs, and is now in training for a 50-mile race.

Ellen's decision to leave NMAC, with promises to stay in touch, falls hard upon those of us who loved her verve and her boundless enthusiasm. Run hard and run long, Ellen, but don't leave us too far behind...we will miss you.

- Marjorie Dunne  
SEATEC

# Professional Corner

## Professional Corner

### Snapshot of: Lisa Crowner

Turn back the clock to June 1980. Picture a young woman from Halifax, a small town in Massachusetts. She is a stellar student, a first chair trombone player with the high school band, and an award winning shot putter who could well have been elected Most Likely to Succeed from her high school class. She is going off to the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, to study pre-med and become a doctor.

Turn the clock ahead to 2001. This same vibrant woman is now Correctional Manager for the HIV/AIDS Bureau, Massachusetts Department of Public Health, supervising HIV programs in twelve county correctional facilities and HIV educational counseling and testing programs in twenty-three Department of Corrections facilities. Add to this the title of Contract Manager for prevention and education activities in eighteen community correctional sites, and the responsibility for overseeing the TIP Program for the CDC/HRSA Corrections Demonstration Project in Massachusetts.

If you are lucky enough to one day meet Lisa Crowner, the redheaded Correctional Manager from Massachusetts, she is someone you will never forget. Adjectives heard to describe her are: “fiercely intelligent,” “passionate,” “totally committed,” and “fun.” Point of fact: Lisa can fly on a plane across the country, get three hours sleep, and sit through a day long meeting after which she can repeat practically verbatim everything that everyone said...then stand up and intelligently articulate the goals, issues, and challenges in the Massachusetts state program.

The path from being a pre-med student to being a state level liaison for Corrections and HIV/AIDS in Public Health has been an interesting, if not always easy, journey for Lisa. Her first experience with health education came when she was selected to be a peer sex educator in college. Lisa says that the three semester course she took in preparation for that role helped her to break down the discomfort of talking about sexually transmitted diseases and also helped her to a deeper understanding of diversity issues. Fearing that students might be reluctant to attend

her educational sessions on contraceptive use and herpes transmission, Lisa billed her sessions as “Free popcorn with Lisa” events that were well attended by her fellow students.

A year before graduating with a B.S. in Zoology, Lisa developed the first of two life threatening pulmonary embolisms that she has experienced. When she emerged from the ICU after her first embolism, thrilled to be alive and feeling acutely the fragility of life, Lisa decided to put medical school on permanent hold and, instead, marry and raise a family. Following that dream, Lisa moved to the Cape after graduation to be near her husband-to-be and his hometown.

When her parents told her to “get a job in three days or come home,” Lisa took a job as Director of the Mid-Cape Women’s Center on Main Street in Hyannis where she worked alone doing free pregnancy testing and pregnancy option counseling. During this time, anti-choice groups threatened her life on a number of occasions, and her husband had to escort her in and out of the office. Her client base swelled during the time she worked there, partly because she had learned sign language in college and the deaf community sought her out.

After two and a half years, Lisa says she “got my husband over the bridge” to mainland Massachusetts, and worked at a sheltered workshop for the mentally challenged. During this time, she gave birth to her daughter, Brittany, now thirteen. She stayed at home for five years, and had a second child, Benjamin, now eleven. Not one to be nonproductive, Lisa started a sewing business in her home, making mostly wedding dresses and accessories. She also sewed patches on the uniforms of the local policemen, not knowing that one day she herself would find her professional niche in the world of corrections.

A second pulmonary embolism after the birth of her second child, and a near death experience, left Lisa with “alopecia universalis,” a rare condition secondary to the emotional and physical trauma she experienced during this time. “Not a hair anywhere on my body” says Lisa unashamedly as she adjusts her red wig. Her total comfort with this is evidenced by her not infrequent use of a turban instead of a wig. One of her favorite stories came from her recent visit to the ACHSA Conference in Atlanta when she was, as she describes it, ‘accosted at the bar’ by the numerous Barbie doll look-alike Mary Kay representatives who were also conferencing at the same hotel. When they tried to sell her their products, she told them to back off because “I have no hair and wear no makeup.”

Lisa’s return to professional life began when she accepted the Coordinator position with the Coalition for Pregnant and Parenting Teens in Plymouth. This led to a job as a Certified AIDS educator for the Department of Public Health, and yet another job with the local school district coordinating health education. When she was approached by the Plymouth County Sheriff’s Department to help write a grant application to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health for HIV Services with Corrections, her future was sealed. A series of jobs beginning with Plymouth County, and later including the Executive Directorship of an AIDS Service organization, led ultimately to the highest levels of state public health and corrections. Ironically, the program that is the full realization of the grant she helped write many years ago is now the piece she oversees.

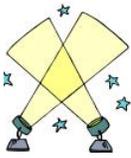
Corrections was initially a new challenge for Lisa, but it is now her life’s work and her professional passion. In many ways, it is also her personal passion, for Lisa is married to a Correctional Officer. As she often plays the role of “advocate” and he often plays the role of “disciplinarian,” Lisa says that “it makes for some interesting pillow talk.”

Lisa’s pure joy in attending conferences that connect Corrections and Public Health is evident in her active participation as she dialogues with key people from different states. The pride and affection she has for her home state and the programs she helps manage, and her enthusiasm for what she does, is best expressed in Lisa’s own words: “The thing I like most about this job is the people I meet, the energy around me, and the passion...both with the people in Massachusetts and the people in the Demonstration Project. It is so exciting for me to meet other Corrections officials and the people working in the trenches...I thrive on it!”

- Marjorie Dunne  
SEATEC



*Lisa Crowner, Correctional Manager, HIV/AIDS Bureau, Massachusetts Department of Public Health, (4th from L) and her HIV Jail Coordinators, L to R: Karen Waitekus, Carol Magrone, Alison Baker, Pattie Burger.*



## **Jail LINC Program Jacksonville, FL**

By: Ellen Bentz

Three things that I have been thinking about since my whirlwind two days with the Jail Linc staff in Jacksonville, Florida: underwear, chicken gizzards, and beepers. Underwear because the Lutheran Social Services case managers brought to light the dearth of clean underwear available for recently released persons. Chicken gizzards because of the grand conversation that accompanied them as I consumed them in a park with Lolita and Toni from River Region Social Services. Beepers, well, they are on the hips of every Jail Linc employee in Jacksonville and this devoted staff rarely seems to turn them off.

Nestled in Jacksonville, Florida is a pocket of integrated services unlike any that I have seen before. The Jail Linc program fans out from the Duval County Jail to the surrounding city of Jacksonville in a large, interconnected weave of social service providers, medical providers, HIV outreach staff, mental health professionals, substance abuse personnel and case managers. The hub of the services center is in the small Jail Linc office onsite at the Duval County Jail, where Dan Ashbon and Erin Feathers from Lutheran Social Service work their magic with the jail's medical services department led by Dr. Max Solano and his team of Nursing Director Samone Smith and HIV educators A. B. George and Toni James. Here, next to the beautiful St. Johns River, is where potential clients are screened for HIV risk factors and educated about testing and treatment. Individuals who test positive meet with Erin and Dan to hear about the Jail Linc program and begin

outside with HIV/AIDS.

### **Lutheran Social Services**

Erin and Dan are the first faces that most new Jail Linc clients encounter. Due to the high turnover rate in the jail, Jail Linc's first contact often occurs during the hurried few days before release. It is here that the external support system becomes crucial: ID nurse Marcia Hosley ensures that recently released inmates are hustled into financial reviews for ADAP and Medicaid; Lolita Hill and Toni Bank at River Region pull strings and work magic to get clients into substance and mental health programs; and Karen McGee and Katie Lefwich at I. M. Sulzbacher make sure that clients have a place to sleep. The end result provides Jail Linc clients with a true team working to obtain the resources needed to provide for basic necessities.

At release, that underwear comes into the picture. Erin and Dan agree they can make many things appear from very little, but underwear is an exception. Clients are released with the clothes they were arrested in, making a new start difficult from the beginning, especially when those clothes may be torn or dirty, including the underwear. Erin takes clients to local thrift stores to bring their wardrobes up to speed, but thrift store underwear is just not the same as clean, new underwear. When we are talking about the skills needed to overcome hurdles in these first few days outside of jail, underwear becomes one of

managers wouldn't wear a stranger's cast off undergarments, why should they expect a client to? Lutheran Social Services is currently looking into corporate donations of underwear, following the lead of South Shore AIDS Project in Massachusetts, where Edith White successfully obtained donations from TJMaxx, Gillette and Kraft to outfit their clients in the Massachusetts' TIP Program.

### **River Region Human Services**

Beepers vibrate on the desks, while newly-green tree branches rustle outside the open second floor window of the converted house where Lutheran Social Services sets up camp. Across town, similar beepers are the subject of conversation in the small, bright space of River Region's Lolita Hill's office as Toni Banks, Dayle Kalloway and Lolita gather to discuss their part in this network of services. It becomes quickly apparent that substance use, client needs and adjunct providers keep these folks working from early in the morning to past most people's dinner times. River Region's challenge centers on keeping recently released clients on track with substance treatment and mental health care. And a challenge it is. The people in Lolita's small office bristle with talent, experience and street smarts. They make the calls and work their contacts to streamline clients in the vital care that all hope will keep the clients clean, healthy and out of jail.

Over lunch of barbeque in a

and I watch a young girl playing unsupervised and muse over the systems that contribute to the level of need in Jacksonville and the potential of the Jail Linc program. (The chicken gizzards make their debut here and stay around with me for the next day.) For Lolita and Toni, born and raised in Jacksonville, Jail Linc is more a calling than a job. Both give to the community much more than their 9-5 compensated duties: Toni ran to the jail the previous night to meet a client about to fall through the safety net; Lolita distributes condoms and prevention messages like morning newspapers in her old neighborhood. The need in Jacksonville can be overwhelming, this city on the river seems divided not by water, but by socio-economic factors--the haves versus the have-nots.

#### I. M. Sulzbacher Center

Nowhere is the divide more apparent than at the I. M. Sulzbacher Center, visible to the Jacksonville city employees as they drive home to outlying suburbs from their downtown jobs on the highway that runs 200 feet above the Center. I. M. Sulzbacher, located under the highway's overpass and next to the jail, is but a stone's throw away from the new condominiums being built as part of the city's renaissance. The Sulzbacher Center is far more than a typical shelter. The building sprawls massumingly over a landscaped area that includes an ample children's playground and plenty of benches for the adults.

Inside, the area bustles with a flurry of activity as the workers strive to deliver one-stop' services for their clients: food, housing, medical, financial and social support necessary to assist clients in transitioning to stable, independent living. I tour the women's housing area, where bunks and bureaus are nestled into private alcoves decorated with children's drawings, greeting cards, and brightly colored sheets and blankets. On the

chores designated to residents. Signs are taped up announcing the previous evening's nail polish session, and inviting the women to gather for conversation and community.

The men's area differs slightly, with fewer flowers and artwork and more utilitarian objects like blankets, boots, and racks for drying clothes. No less orderly, the men's large sleeping area accommodates as many as possible. Tara, the clinic's nurse, tells me that the bunks were previously placed so close together that one could barely walk down the aisles. Now there is room to lounge in a chair by the bunk and polish your shoes, as one resident does while we walk through. The area is soon to be equipped with a new hepa-filter thanks to a recent grant.

Sulzbacher is changing with the times. The staff muse over the grants that they have just received, which will allow the clinic to move their nursing and medical services to a separate site. New grants have enabled the Center to build the large open room where we meet with Bennie Griffin, Katy Lefwich and Patricia Williams, (the outreach team). Jail Linc clients are guaranteed beds at Sulzbacher, where the nursing staff is poised to design a medical plan of care and the social service team ensures that substance treatment, mental health, financial, job training and legal services are provided. For clients that may fall through the cracks, Katy is in the field, educating about HIV, testing for HIV and finding people that are lost to

that test positive in the jail and are released before they get their test results.

Despite the Center's 300+ capacity, the outreach team assures me that there are still pockets of unmet need, people living on the streets and, less visibly, in the woods. All the Jail Linc staff agree that the need can be overwhelming, even when they are out socially (with the beeper still on) and they run into clients who have pressing needs. I see this in action, as Bennie Griffin and I, talking shop and walking to my car, meet a gentleman who knows Bennie. The man holds a dog on a leash, and explains to Bennie that the animal drained his limited finances. The man pleads with Bennie to take his dog as he can no longer afford to feed both himself and the dog, trying to hand Bennie the length of chain around the dog's neck. I offer my pork sandwich, which the man promptly allocated to the dog. As I drive off, the man and Bennie are deep in conversation, planning for the future.

Another busy day in the life of Jail Linc.

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#### **Lutheran Social Services**

2257 Riverside Avenue  
Jacksonville, FL 32204  
(904) 387-2992

#### **River Region Human Services**

660 Park Street  
Jacksonville, FL 32204  
(904) 359-2680

#### **I.M. Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless, Inc.**

611 East Adams Street  
Jacksonville, FL 32202  
(904) 359-0467

**2001 American Correctional Health Services Association Conference**

“Corrections and Public Health: PARTNERS IN CARING”

March 15-18, 2001 ∞ Atlanta, Georgia

Co-hosted by: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Emory University School of Medicine, Georgia Department of Corrections, Health Resources Services Administration, and Southeast AIDS Training and Education Center

# Faces in the Crowd...



*Jackie Zalumas, SEATEC, and Maestro Evans, Georgia Correctional Transition Program.*



*Kendall Moore, Chicago Department of Health; Brenda Goldhammer, California STD/HIV Prevention Training Ctr.; Deborah Carr, CDC/STD Program, Los Angeles; and, Mick Gardner, Centerforce. California.*



*Johnetta Holcombe, SEATEC and Ronald Braithwaite, Emory University.*



*Hugh Potter, CDC; Vivian Chen, Office of the Surgeon General, John Miles, formerly of CDC; and, Rear Admiral Kenneth P. Moritsugu, U.S. Deputy Surgeon General.*

# SAVE THE DATE

**May 5-8, 2001**  
**National Commission on Correctional Health Care**  
**Spring Clinical Update**  
Las Vegas, NV  
(773) 880-1460  
[www.ncchc.org/conference.html](http://www.ncchc.org/conference.html)

**May 16, 2001**  
**New England Correctional Health Care Conference**  
Sturbridge, MA  
(781) 890-3434  
email: [chcc@icgps.com](mailto:chcc@icgps.com)

**June 5, 2001**  
**Management of HIV/AIDS in the Correctional Setting: A Live Satellite Videoconference Series**  
(518) 262-6864

**August 12 – 15, 2001**  
**2001 CDC National HIV Prevention Conference**  
Atlanta, GA  
(877) 884-9342  
[www.2001hivprevconf.org](http://www.2001hivprevconf.org)

**September 13 – 16, 2001**  
**United States Conference on AIDS 2001**  
Miami Beach, FL  
[www.nmac.org/usca2001/home.htm](http://www.nmac.org/usca2001/home.htm)

**November 10-14, 2001**  
**2001 National Conference on Correctional Health Care**  
Albuquerque, NM



## Required Reading...

Walkin' the Dog, by Walter Mosely, is a novel that portrays the day-to-day life experiences of an ex-convict, nine years out of prison. Mosely allows his readers to examine the challenges, encounters, prejudices and injustices that the ex-con is subject to, while battling to live a normal life on the trying streets of Los Angeles, California.

The main character in Walkin the Dog is Socrates Fortlow, a sixty-year old African-American man who is extremely muscular, brawny, powerful and quite intimidating to the eye. Socrates works in a local supermarket, which is filled with co-workers and supervisors who admire him, as well as his work ethic. He resides in a rundown apartment with a two-legged dog named Killer, who he adores immensely. Surrounded by friends and a few lady interests, Socrates is very choosing in those individuals he can trusts and builds relationships with. He does not hide the fact that he was imprisoned for murder in an Indiana Prison for twenty-seven years, four months and sixteen days, and constantly refers to those things he learned while inside, to help him adjust and cope with life on the outside. He becomes a mentor to a teenage boy, who too has gotten caught up in a life of gangs and murder, who he insistantly guides down the right path. For every crime that is committed or every robbery made, Socrates Fortlow is the prime suspect. He is under constant surveillance by the police and continuously harassed and questioned at a moments notice. Although Socrates was no longer confined to a prison cell, often times while on the outside, he wondered if he really was free.

I found Walkin the Dog to be a first-rate novel illustrating the hardships and decisions, as well as the hurt and pain of living as an ex-convict. This book comes highly recommended as a good read and excellent source of information for those individuals who work with and around incarcerated clients. This novel makes for a tool to utilize in understanding ex-convicts' experiences and encounters on the outside.

- Teresa Brown  
*National Minority AIDS Council*



# RESOURCES



## **This month's featured resource:**

### Inside/Out: Real Stories of Women, Men and Life After Incarceration, 2000

Cost: \$55.00 for non-profit, \$85.00 for County, State and Private Corporations. - An excellent 17 minute video designed to educate women about their male partner's risk behaviors while incarcerated. Real people tell their stories about risk behaviors on the inside and how to discuss them with their partners after release. To obtain your copy of this video, please contact:

**Centerforce**  
64 Main Street, San Quentin, CA 94964  
(415) 456-9980

## *Key Contacts* CDC/KSA Demonstration Project

### CALIFORNIA

Reggie Caldwell, M.S.W., Department of Health Services/Office of AIDS  
611 N. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite A, Sacramento, CA, 95814  
Phone: (916) 324-6783 Fax: (916) 323-4642 E-mail: [rcaldwe2@dhs.ca.gov](mailto:rcaldwe2@dhs.ca.gov)

### FLORIDA

Priscilla Wood, B.S., Florida Department of Health/Bureau of HIV/AIDS  
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A09, Tallahassee, FL, 32399  
Phone: (850) 245-4444 ext. 2568 Fax: (850) 922-4202 E-mail: [priscilla\\_wood@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:priscilla_wood@doh.state.fl.us)

### GEORIGIA

Judith Byrnes, Georgia Department of Human Resources Prevention Services  
2 Peachtree Street, NW, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Suite 400, Atlanta, GA, 30303  
Phone: (404) 657-3114 Fax: (404) 657-3133 E-mail: [jbyrnes@dhr.state.ga.us](mailto:jbyrnes@dhr.state.ga.us)

### ILLINOIS

Kendall Moore, Chicago Department of Public Health  
2160 W. Ogden Avenue, Chicago, IL, 60612  
Phone: (312) 746-6235 Fax: (312) 747-0160 E-mail: [kendallm@attglobal.net](mailto:kendallm@attglobal.net)

### MASSACHUSETTS

Tom Barker, M.P.H., Massachusetts Department of Public Health  
250 Washington Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Boston, MA 02108  
Phone: (617) 624-5309 Fax: (617) 624-5399 E-mail: [tom.barker@state.ma.us](mailto:tom.barker@state.ma.us)

### NEW JERSEY

Laurence Ganges, MSW, Department of Health & Senior Services, Division of AIDS Prevention and Control  
P.O. Box 363, 50 East State Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Trenton, NJ, 08625  
Phone: (609) 984-6125 Fax: (609) 292-4244 E-mail: [lganges@doh.state.nj.us](mailto:lganges@doh.state.nj.us)

### NEW YORK

Dan O'Connell, M.A., M.L.S., Division of HIV Prevention, New York State Department of Health  
Empire State Plaza, Corning Tower, Room 308, Albany, NY, 12237  
Phone: (518) 473-2300 Fax: (518) 486-6888 E-mail: [dao03@health.state.ny.us](mailto:dao03@health.state.ny.us)